

**Closing**



**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF  
SAN JOSE

## **Embracing New Members**

“For me, religion is a verb. The primary religious question is not, 'What do you believe?' Instead, it is, 'What do you do?' For me it is important to DO first, then reflect on that doing later. I don't do (or not do) something because my beliefs tell me to do (or not do) it. Instead, my doing challenges, informs and shapes my beliefs. But the doing must always come first if the believing is to be genuine.”

- Rev. Greg Stewart

**Preliminaries** Deep listening, confidentiality, and letting the experience come forth anew.

**Centering**

**Opening/ Chalice Lighting** We gather this hour as people of faith  
With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs,  
Hymnal #448 We light this beacon of hope, sign of our quest  
By Christine For truth and meaning,  
Robinson In celebration of the life we share together.

**Check-in** *Briefly give a weather report on your state of mind today.*

**Responsive Reading** We gather in reverence before the wonder of life —  
*The wonder of this moment*  
Hymnal # 439 The wonder of being together,  
By Sophia Lyon so close yet so apart —  
Fahs *Each hidden in our own secret chamber,*  
Each listening, each trying to speak  
*Yet none fully understanding, none fully understood*  
We gather in reverence before all intangible things  
That eyes see not, nor ears can detect —  
*That hands can never touch, that space cannot hold, and time cannot measure*

**Silence** *Relax your body. Breathe slowly and evenly. If you wish, reflect on small ways we touch each other's lives. Recall a recent time when you have given someone a special smile, a few gentle words, a little favor., or when someone has done the same for you.*

*Please share a portion of your religious journey that led you to this point.*

**Sharing/ Deep Listening**

*First verse:*  
Come, sing a song with me,  
Come, sing a song with me,  
Come, sing a song with me,  
That I might know your mind.

**Closing Song**

*Chorus:*  
And I'll bring you hope,  
When hope is hard to find.  
And I'll bring a song of love,  
And a rose in the wintertime.

*Other verses:*  
Come, dream a dream with me...

Come, walk in rain with me...

Come share a rose with me

**Extinguishing the Chalice**

- Annie Dillard,  
Hymnal #420  
We are here to abet creation  
and to witness to it,  
to notice each other's beautiful face  
and complex nature  
so that creation need not play  
to an empty house.